



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

Date: May 3, 2011

RE: Waiver of Meal Time Restrictions and Unitized Meal Requirements in the
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Original Signed

This memorandum establishes a waiver of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) regulations for meal time requirements in 7 CFR §225.16 (c) and expands the option to use offer versus serve (OVS) to non-school sponsors in 7 CFR §225.16(f)(ii).

Meal Time Restrictions

Currently, three hours must elapse between the beginning of one meal or snack service and the beginning of the next, except that four hours must elapse between the beginning of lunch and the beginning of supper when no afternoon snack is served. Additionally, the duration of meal service is limited to two hours for lunch and supper and one hour for breakfast and snacks.

In an effort to simplify SFSP management, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is waiving these restrictions. In accordance with 7 CFR §225.6(c)(2), sponsors must continue to establish meal times for each site and provide this information to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Therefore, when applying to participate in the SFSP or providing annual updates to SFSP information, sponsors must provide the ADE with information regarding the times of the meal service at each site, but are not required to ensure that specific time periods elapse between the meal services. This waiver supersedes previous SFSP guidance giving state agencies the authority to waive meal time restrictions.

Restrictions on the number and type of meals that may be served each day as established by 7 CFR §225.16(b) continue to apply.

Offer Versus Serve

Currently, school sponsors have the offer versus serve (OVS) option under 7 CFR §225.16(f)(ii). OVS permits children to decline food items they do not intend to eat. However, the regulations restrict OVS to school sponsors only, meaning no food items may be declined in meals served by non-school sponsors.

This memorandum expands the option of using OVS to non-school sponsors. The OVS option can be an opportunity to minimize food waste and help sponsors contain costs.

Schools electing to use OVS must use the options relevant to their menu planning approach. Non-school SFSP sponsors wishing to use OVS must follow the OVS requirements for the food-based menu planning approach. This means a child may decline only one of the four food items (milk, fruit/vegetable, bread/grain, or meat/meat alternate) offered at breakfast and up to two of the five food items (milk, fruit/vegetable, fruit/vegetable, bread/grain, or meat/meat alternate) offered at lunch or supper. There is no OVS option for snacks.

Example: SFSP Meal Pattern and the Operation of OVS

Lunch menu for Site A is: Ham & Cheese Sandwich (meat/meat alt & bread/grain)
 Carrot Sticks (fruit/vegetable)
 Apple Slices (fruit/vegetable)
 Skim Milk (milk)

The following combinations are considered ‘reimbursable’ while operating OVS in conjunction with the SFSP Meal Pattern:

- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Carrot Sticks, Apple Slices, Skim Milk
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Carrot Sticks, Apple Slices
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Carrot Sticks, Skim Milk
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Apple Slices, Skim Milk
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Carrot Sticks
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Apple Slices
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Skim Milk
- Carrot Sticks, Apple Slices, Skim Milk

Sponsors interested in utilizing the OVS option may learn more by viewing the USDA Offer Versus Serve Resource Manual at www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/Operating/ovs/.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at (602) 542-8700.

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